



breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 25

TITLE

OREGON'S VIEW OF LEGAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN EPHT IMPLEMENTATION

TRACK

Collaborations

OBJECTIVES

Session participants will understand some of the legal restrictions and authorities involved in collecting data for the EPHT Network. Participants will be asked to consider the ultimate uses of the data, as well as how state-specific restrictions or authorities will impact the Network.

SUMMARY

The Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is building a National Network of health and environmental data. It is envisioned that this Network will be available first to other public health practitioners, and eventually in some form to the general public. In order to populate the Network, the participant grantees, who for the most part are state and local health departments, will identify and provide health and environmental data from their states. To do this, the participant grantees will need to have sufficient legal authority to collect data, authority to gain access to data collected by others, and authority to disclose data to the Network and, by extension, to users of the Network. The presentation will discuss these authorities, and limits to these authorities, from Oregon's perspective. Topics will include statutory authority granted to the state's Department of Human Services, state and federal laws involved in balancing the community's right to know with the individual's right to privacy, and the creation of legal agreements with data partners. Differences between collecting health data and environmental data will be discussed. Special attention will be given to the examination of the purposes for which the data are to be used, as guidance for Network content and data disclosure.

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